

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03

AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 SCCT-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 /104 W

----- 095018

O R 022209Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6097

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJ: ISLAMIC DELEGATIONS DECIDE NOT TO ASK SECURITY COUNCIL TO
MEET ON AQSA MOSQUE SITUATION

REF: USUN 0756

1. ISLAMIC UN DELEGATIONS MET MARCH 2, FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE
CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN ARAB AND NON-ARAB MEMBERS, ON WHETHER
TO ASK SC TO CONVENE OVER ALLEGED ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF
MOSELM SHRINES IN JERUSALEM. CONSENSUS WAS THAT TIME WAS
NOT RIPE TO TAKE MATTER TO COUNCIL. INSTEAD IT WAS DECIDED THAT
A) TEN-MEMBER DELEGATION SHOULD INFORM SECRETARY-GENERAL OF
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ISLAMIC COUNTRIES' CONCERN AND B) ISLAMIC CONFERENCES'

JERUSALEM COMMITTEE WOULD CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER ACTION TO TAKE.

2. CREDIT FOR HEADING OFF AN UNPRODUCTIVE SC MEETING GOES MAINLY TO IRANIAN PERMREP HOVEYDA. BEHIND THE SCENES, ARAB CONTACTS TELL US, HOVEYDA ARGUED THAT ENOUGH WAS ENOUGH: EVERYTHING THAT NEEDED SAYING WAS SAID DURING RECENT SC DEBATE ON PALESTINE, AND FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES WOULD COME IN MAY (UNDOF) AND JUNE (PALESTINE COMMITTEE REPORT.) AT THIS MORNING'S MEETING, HOVEYDA STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING ISLAMIC RESPONSE COMMENSURATE WITH PROVOCATION. HE WAS SECONDED BY TURKISH AND PALISTANI AMBASSADORS, PRIMARILY ON GROUND OF HAVING TO REFER TO CAPITALS ANY REQUEST FOR SC ACTION. PLO OBSERVER THEN ARGUED FOR IMMEDIATE CONVENING OF SC, BUT WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY OTHER ARABS.

3. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT MODERATE ARABS, PARTICULARLY EGYPTIANS, PAVED WAY FOR IRANIAN INITIATIVE BY MAKING WIDELY KNOWN THEIR OPPOSITION TO SC INVOLVEMENT. WE DID WHAT WE COULD BY DISCUSSING MATTER WITH AS MANY ISLAMIC DELEGATIONS AS WE THOUGHT SUSCEPTIBLE TO OUR ARGUMENTS. IRANIANS WERE EXCEPTIONALLY HELPFUL, AND DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION.

4. FOR THE RECORD, PLO LETTER TO SC PRESIDENT REFERRED TO REFTTEL WAS CIRCULATED MARCH 2 UNDER CONVERING LETTER FROM LIBYAN PERMREP. SIGNED BY PLO ACTING UN OBSERVER TERZI AND DATED FEBRUARY 23, LETTER DESCRIBES AQSA SITUATION IN PEJORATIVE TERMS BUT DOES NOT CALL FOR COUNCIL MEETING. BENNETT

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